

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

FEBRUARY 13, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 13, 2004, **ANDRE DENTON**, age 31, of Alton, Illinois, was charged by Criminal Complaint in United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

ANDRE DENTON was arrested at his home located in the 200 block of West 19th Street, Alton, Illinois, on February 12, 2004, after the execution of a federal search warrant was issued for his home on West 19th Street. In the course of the federally authorized search of **DENTON'S** house, contraband including cocaine, crack cocaine and marihuana was discovered and seized by federal agents and police officers.

The obtaining and execution of the search warrant and arrest of **ANDRE DENTON** is the result of an undercover investigation of illegal gun and drug activity involving **ANDRE DENTON** and others. Investigation has resulted in charges being filed against **ANDRE DENTON** which indicate his involvement in the sale and distribution of cocaine and crack cocaine in the Alton, Illinois, area for a time period of approximately a year and a half.

DENTON was charged by complaint with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base (crack cocaine) in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846 and possession of cocaine and cocaine base (crack cocaine) with the intent to distribute those illegal drugs in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841. If indicted by a Grand Jury and later convicted of the charged offenses, **ANDRE DENTON** will be subject to imprisonment of up to life imprisonment and up to a \$4 million fine. All federal sentences are served without possibility of parole.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the City of Alton Police Department, Illinois State Police, Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and is directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Thomas M. Daly.